

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated August 2, 2005 (Paper No./Mail Date 20050720). By this communication claim 2 has been amended and claims 4-6 added.

Claim 2 has been amended to improve idiomatic English and form. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 2 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, in paragraph [0047] of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004-0227286 (the '286 publication). No new matter has been added.

Claim 4 recites a gaming machine comprising a liquid crystal display device including a liquid crystal panel, and a light guiding plate disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel; and a variable display device disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal display device and including a plurality of reels provided in a row each on which a plurality of symbols are arranged, wherein a part of the light guiding plate to which each of the reels is opposed is configured as a light transmission area for transmitting light from the reel, wherein the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern, and wherein the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 4 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in paragraphs [0038] through [0043] of the '286 publication and in original claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Claim 5 recites that the liquid crystal display device comprises a light diffusion plate disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate and having a light transmission area to which each of the reels is opposed, and that the first deflection pattern is formed in a portion of the light guiding plate where the first deflection pattern is visually recognized through the light transmission area of the light diffusion means. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 5 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, in paragraphs [0044] through [0047] of the '286 publication. No new matter has been added.

Claim 6 recites that the light source includes a plurality of cold-cathode tubes arranged in a depth direction in a proximity of an outer end face of the light guiding plate. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 6 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claim 3. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 are pending where claims 1 and 4 are independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Ozaki et al.*—U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001-0031658. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a gaming machine comprising a liquid crystal display device including a liquid crystal panel, and a light guiding plate disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from illumination means for the liquid crystal panel to the liquid crystal panel; and a variable display device disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal display device and including a plurality of reels provided in a row each on which a plurality of symbols are arranged, wherein a part of the light guiding plate to which each of the reels is opposed is configured as a light transmission area for transmitting light from the reel, wherein the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern, and wherein the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern.

Ozaki discloses a gaming machine having a main frame 14 that is divided into a top section 14a, a middle section 14b, and a bottom section 14c. The middle section 14b has a square opening 24 in which a front panel 26 is fitted. Transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c are stacked behind the back face of the front panel 26 and constitute a front panel display. An intermediate panel 27 is behind the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c. An EL display control means 50g displays overlapping patterns and gaming information on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c based on display data. A light source 26 is located above a reflective plate 25, and a light source 9 is located behind the reflective plate 25. Light emitted by the light source 9 passes through the reflective plate to the EL panels, while light emitted from the light source 26 is reflected by the reflective plate 25.

Ozaki, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least that the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern. In contrast, *Ozaki* merely discloses using a reflective plate 25 in which light emitted by the light source 9 passes through the reflective plate 25 to the EL panels, while light emitted from the light source 26 is reflected by the reflective plate 25.

To properly anticipate a claim, the document must disclose, explicitly or implicitly, each and every feature recited in the claim. See Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif., 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *Ozaki* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest every element recited in independent claim 1, therefore this claim is not anticipated by *Ozaki*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and this claim be allowed.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are further distinguished over *Ozaki* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 4-6 have been newly added. Claim 4 recites a gaming machine comprising a liquid crystal display device including a liquid crystal panel, and a light guiding plate disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel; and a variable display device disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal display device and including a plurality of reels provided in a row each on which a plurality of symbols are arranged, wherein a part of the light guiding plate to which each of the reels is opposed is configured as a light transmission area for transmitting light from the reel, wherein the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern, and wherein the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser

than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern. Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least that the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 4 be considered and allowed.

Newly added claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6 are allowable. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6 are further distinguished over the prior art based on the additional subject matter recited therein and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 5 and 6 be considered and allowed.

Application No. 10/697,248
Amendment dated October 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 2, 2005

Docket No.: SHO-0050
(80033-0050)

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SHO-0050 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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